AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended as follows:

Page 1

The heading at line 13 has been amended as follows:

(2) Description of the ~~Prior~~ Related Art

Pages 1-2

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 22 and ending on page 2, line 19 has been amended as follows:

In image forming apparatuses, however, in some cases, ~~thin weight~~ thin sheets, thick sheets such as post cards, sheets of various colors (colored sheets), sheets of uncommon sizes, sheets of special materials and so on may be used as recording sheets, in addition to the paper held in the paper feed trays. Such recording sheets which are rarely used (to be referred to hereinbelow as uncommon sheets) may be difficult to handle using the aforementioned paper feed trays, and it is not efficient that such uncommon sheets monopolize the limited number of paper feed trays at all times. However, it is also troublesome if recording sheets held in the paper feed tray should be replaced every time one type of uncommon sheets are used. For this reason, many of image forming apparatuses have a paper feed port on the outside (flank) of the machine, i.e., so-called manual paper feeder (an example of the sheet feeder) so as to facilitate uncommon sheets to be fed to the image forming apparatus. This manual paper feeder

has a pickup device (an example of the feeding device) which places and presses a designated pickup roller onto the topmost surface of recording sheets stacked on the manual feed tray as a recording sheet receiver and turns it so as to pick up recording sheets, one by one, and feeds them into the image forming apparatus.

Page 12

The heading at line 11 has been amended as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ~~PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS~~PRESENT INVENTION

Pages 18-19

The paragraph beginning on page 18, line 23 and ending on page 19, line 12 has been amended as follows:

The pickup device 280 includes: a one-way clutch 28 and bearing 29 provided on the paper feed roller shaft 11; a paper feed drive pulley 25 coupled with the one-way clutch 28 and rotatably supported on the paper feed roller shaft 11; the paper ~~fed~~ feed roller 283 coupled with the paper feed drive pulley 25; the drive belt 23 for transmitting the rotational force from the paper feed drive pulley 25; a pickup roller shaft 26 that receives rotational force from drive belt 23; a pickup drive pulley 24 and the pickup roller 282 provided on the pickup roller shaft 26; a pickup arm 27 rotatably supported on the paper feed roller shaft 11 and axially supporting the pickup roller shaft 26; and a hooking portion 30 which engages the protecting cover 281 when the pickup device 280 is retracted into the flank of the image forming apparatus 1 as will be described later.

Pages 26-27

The paragraph beginning on page 26, line 19 and ending on page 27, line 14 has been amended as follows:

By this arrangement, the two hooking parts 34 and 30 interlock each other only in the range from the trace intersection point 3x toward the retracted position (the area closer to the flank of image forming apparatus 1). The positions of the protecting cover 281 and the pickup device 280 when the distal ends of the hooking parts 34 and 30 are located at the trace intersection point 3x, will be hereinbelow called the starting positions of engagement. Fig.7B shows a state in which both the protecting cover 281 and the pickup device 280 are positioned at the starting positions of engagement, respectively, or the hooking parts 34 and 30 start to be engaged with each other. As shown in Fig.7B, the starting position of engagement of the protecting cover 281 resides at the predetermined point between the usage position (Fig.7A) and the retracted position (not shown) and the starting position of engagement of the pickup device 280 resides at the predetermined point between the operating position (Fig.7C) and the retracted position (not shown). The present embodiment is configured ~~so that~~ such that the waiting position of the pickup device 280 coincides with the starting position of engagement.

Pages 27-28

The paragraph beginning on page 27, line 15 and ending on page 28, line 18 has been amended as follows:

Thus, a very simple structure makes it possible for the pickup device 280 to pick up recording sheet P without being disturbed by hooking part 34 of the protecting cover 281 when the device is set at the operating position. Since the pickup device 280 remains stationary at the waiting position (Fig.7A) when no pickup operation is made, the protecting cover 281 is rotated in the direction of I (toward the retracted position), then hooking part 34 of the protecting cover 281 engages hooking part 30 of the pickup device 280 and the pickup device 280 rotates toward the retracted position in linkage with the rotation of the protecting cover 281. Thus, when the protecting cover 281 is retracted into the flank of the image forming apparatus 1 by rotating it toward the retracted position, the pickup device 280 is also retracted into the flank of the image forming apparatus 1 in linkage with the protecting cover 281. The image forming apparatus 1 is constructed ~~so that~~ such that when the manual feed tray 254 is made to stand upright along the flank thereof by manually rotating it, the manual feed tray 254 abuts the protecting cover 281 (the state shown in Fig.6B) and the protecting cover 281 is rotated toward the retracted position by the abutment force. Thereby, as the manual feed tray 254 is rotated so as to stand upright, the protecting cover 281 and the pickup device 280 rotate together and are retracted into the flank of the image forming apparatus 1. It is of course possible to couple the manual feed tray 254 and the protecting cover 281 using a

certain linkage or other mechanisms so that the protecting cover 281 will rotate in linkage with the rotation of the manual feed tray 254.